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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gholam-Reza Zadno-Azizi, *et al.*
Serial No.: 10/081,569
Filed: February 21, 2002
For: **BODY FLUID FLOW CONTROL
DEVICE**
Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Unassigned

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Michael Lough
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Sir:

In advance of the first examination in this case, Applicants request amendment of the subject application, as follows (a marked up copy of the amended specification is attached to this Amendment):

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 2-6, with the following:

B, This is a continuing application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/397,218, filed September 16, 1999, which is a continuing application of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/931,552, filed September 6, 1997, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,954,766, which disclosures of the above are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 2-6, with the following:

B2 Native valves are also found in cardiovascular systems. In veins, native venous



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Michael Lough

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment with an attachment of marked up paragraphs for filing in connection with the above-identified application. Because this Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to receipt of a first office action on the merits in the above-referenced application, no fee is due. However, should it be determined that a fee for filing these papers is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1213, as stated below:

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 in connection with this paper or with this application during its entire pendency to Deposit Account No. 50-1213. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By:

Fred C. Hernandez
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